

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Minutes

February 27, 2013

The Meeting was called to order in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT at 7:40 p.m. by Chairman Albert Grant

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established, members present; Albert Grant, Janice Warren, Jim Strumford, Pete Larese and Kirk Montstream

Also present; Barbara Halloran

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The January minutes were not available for the February meeting. Both the January and February minutes will be available for review and approval at the March Agricultural Commission Meeting

REGULAR BUSINESS:

- **COMMUNITY GARDEN-** The goal for opening day is May 1st. The first scheduled work party for this year will be April 20th at 11am. Any interested gardeners and the general public are invited to attend, for this will be not only a working/plowing event, hopefully all of the garden rules and regulations will be readily available to all. The driveway at the garden needs some improvement. Commission members Jim, Pete and Kirk discussed using equipment to reslope the exit/entrance at the west side of the property. The commission would coordinate details, location, CBYD with the town. The commission also would contact local contractors, if needed, for materials such as gravel that may be utilized during this phase of the project. Plot sizes available this year will be as follows; small plot aprox. 10' x 15' for \$15, and a large plot aprox. 15' x 20' for \$25. It was again mentioned how the Commission would need to put up an information board at the site of the community garden to post rules and regulations, the sign for the garden itself, and a public information board that could be maintain by the Agricultural Commission.
- **FARMERS MARKET-** Jan is working on updating the rules for this year's market, including submitting all the proper paperwork to the State of Connecticut so that the market will be able to accept WIC, SNAP, and Senior Center vouchers. A completed application should be ready to forward to the State of Connecticut for March 15th. Proposed fees for this years market would be \$125 for the entire 30 week year. Other weekly pricing and arrangements can be worked out with Jan or her appointed market master throughout the season. Jan is hoping to invite a representative that she knows that could help us with the rules and regulations of the farmers market to help us have all the proper paperwork in place so that the market can be opened in July.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **FOUR TOWN FAIR-** Same as last months minutes. The commission will keep this item on the monthly agenda. The commission hopes to generate lots of interest in the fair throughout the summer. Al brought forward the fact that East Windsor is the host town for this years fair. The Four Town Fair is typically in September of every year. This commission discussed that the Agriculture Commission should help spread the word around town and to other commissions that the Four Town Fair is great area event for all ages. The fair offers great fun for the whole family, giving everyone a chance to see country crafts, animals and farm tractors and equipment. Al also mentioned that a great part of this fair is the parade on Saturday. This commission discussed putting a float together, perhaps a tractor pulling a hay wagon type of float that maybe we could incorporate some farm type display or some literature and or banners on North Central Connecticut farming particularly in East Windsor would be great, maybe with help from other commissions would be great exposure in for the town and for the 4 town fair.
- **BUDGET-** Kirk was advised to ask Robin Newton from the planning office for better explanation as to how to proceed on how to present a formal buget for this commission. This commission discussed putting together a budget for the upcoming 2013-2014 budget year. Kirk stated that he would contact Town Hall to obtain the proper paperwork so that the Commission could submit a budget for this fiscal year. Some line items that were discussed were a position for a paid secretary at \$50 dollars a month for 12 months and \$250 dollars a fiscal year for educational literature and public awareness flyers along the lines of Agriculture. We could also look into setting up a scholarship program or fund that could be directed toward a student once a year based on academic achievement with interests in agriculture.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **NEW COMMISSION MEMBER-** The Agricultural Commission would like to officially welcome Rice Road resident Pete Larese. We hope that Pete's involvement and continued public awareness of this commission betters East Windsor agricultural presence.
- **PARK DEPARTMENT-** Melissa wasn't able to attend our last meeting, hopefully she is able to attend our March meeting to discuss accounting issues with the Farmers Market and the Community Garden

Jan made a motion to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Pete

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Montstream, Secretary, East Windsor Agriculture Commission

